

**In the Claims**

**Please substitute the following claims 16, 18 and 28 for the claims 16, 18 and 28 now pending in the above-identified application.**

**Please cancel claims 23, 25, 26, 29 and 30 without prejudice to the filing of future continuing applications.**

Claims 1-8 (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 wherein the insulin sensitizer is pioglitazone hydrochloride.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 wherein the acidosis is diabetic acidosis.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 wherein the acidosis is acidosis caused by a biguanide.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 which is for treating disturbance of consciousness, coma or respiratory diseases.

Claims 13-15 (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method for improving or treating acidosis in a mammal in need thereof which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of an insulin sensitizer in combination with ~~insulin~~. insulin, wherein the insulin sensitizer is selected from the group consisting of

1) pioglitazone or a salt thereof;

2) 5-[[6-(2-fluorobenzyloxy)-2-naphthyl]methyl]-2,4-thiazolidinedione;

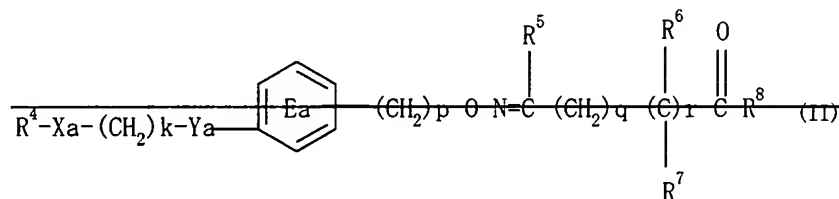
3) CS-011; and

4) BM-13-1258.

Claim 17 (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method for improving or treating acidosis in a mammal in need thereof, which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of an insulin sensitizer selected from the group consisting of

- 1) pioglitazone or a salt thereof;
- 2) ~~a compound of the formula:~~



~~wherein  $R^4$  represents a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted or a heterocyclic group that may be substituted;~~

~~$Xa$  represents a chemical bond, a group of the formula  $CO$ ,  $CH(OH)$ , or  $NR^9$  where  $R^9$  represents hydrogen or an alkyl group that may be substituted;~~

~~$k$  is an integer of 1 to 3;~~

~~$Ya$  represents oxygen atom, sulfur atom,  $SO$ ,  $SO_2$ , or  $NR^{10}$  where  $R^{10}$  represents hydrogen or an alkyl group that may be substituted;~~

~~ring  $Ea$  represents a benzene ring that may have further 1 to 3 substituents;~~

~~$p$  is an integer of 1 to 8;~~

~~$R^5$  represents hydrogen, a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, or a heterocyclic group that may be substituted;~~

~~$q$  is an integer of 0 to 6;~~

~~r is 0 or 1;~~

~~R<sup>8</sup> represents hydroxy, OR<sup>11</sup> where R<sup>11</sup> represents a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, or NR<sup>12</sup>R<sup>13</sup> where R<sup>12</sup> and R<sup>13</sup> are the same or different, and represent hydrogen, a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, a heterocyclic group that may be substituted, or an acyl group that may be substituted, or R<sup>12</sup> and R<sup>13</sup> may be combined to form a ring;~~

~~R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> are the same or different, and represent hydrogen or a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, or R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> may be combined to form a ring;~~

~~or a salt thereof;~~

2) ~~3)~~ 5-[[6-(2-fluorobenzyloxy)-2-naphthyl]methyl]-2,4-thiazolidinedione;

4) ~~FK-614;~~

3) ~~5)~~ CS-011;

6) ~~NN-2344;~~ and

4) ~~7)~~ BM-13-1258.

Claims 19-23 (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the insulin sensitizer is pioglitazone hydrochloride.

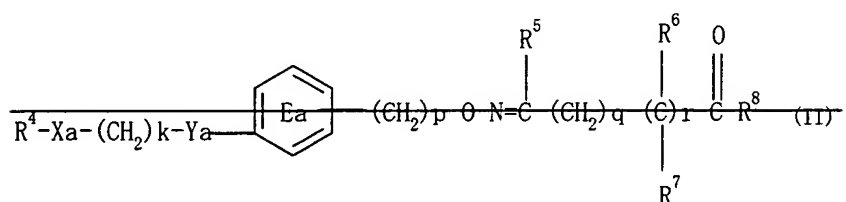
Claims 25 and 26 (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 which is for treating disturbance of consciousness, coma or respiratory distress.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18 wherein the insulin sensitizer is selected from the group consisting of

1) pioglitazone or a salt thereof, and

2) ~~a compound of the formula:~~



~~wherein  $R^4$  represents a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted or a heterocyclic group that may be substituted; Xa represents a chemical bond, a group of the formula  $CO$ ,  $CH(OH)$ , or  $NR^9$  where  $R^9$  represents hydrogen or an alkyl group that may be substituted; k is an integer of 1 to 3; Ya represents oxygen atom, sulfur atom,  $SO$ ,  $SO_2$ , or  $NR^{10}$  where  $R^{10}$  represents hydrogen or an alkyl group that may be substituted; ring Ea represents a benzene ring that may have further 1 to 3 substituents; p is an integer of 1 to 8;  $R^5$  represents hydrogen, a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, or a heterocyclic group that may be substituted; q is an integer of 0 to 6; r is 0 or 1;  $R^8$  represents hydroxy,  $OR^{11}$  where  $R^{11}$  represents a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, or  $NR^{12}R^{13}$  where  $R^{12}$  and  $R^{13}$  are the same or different, and represent hydrogen, a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, a heterocyclic group that may be substituted, or an acyl group that may be substituted, or  $R^{12}$  and  $R^{13}$  may be combined to form a ring;  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  are the same or different, and represent hydrogen or a hydrocarbon~~

~~group that may be substituted, or R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> may be combined to form a ring; or a salt thereof;~~

~~2) 3) 5-[[6-(2-fluorobenzyloxy)-2-naphthyl]methyl]-2,4-~~ ~~thiazolidinedione;~~ thiazolidinedione.

~~and~~

~~4) FK-614.~~

Claims 29 and 30 (Cancelled)